

- [c1] 1. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers, the method comprising the steps of:
- by the first entity, receiving from the first customer of the first entity a first ingredient list, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, at least one of which requires an organic certificate, and for each ingredient requiring an organic certificate, contact information for a respective supplier of the ingredient;
  - by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;
  - for each ingredient of the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;
  - for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, assigning by the first entity a unique identifier associated with said ingredient;
  - for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier;

by the first entity, receiving from the second customer of the first entity a second ingredient list, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients at least one of which requires an organic certificate, and for each ingredient requiring an organic certificate, contact information for a respective supplier of the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;

for each ingredient of the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;

for each ingredient in the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, assigning by the first entity a unique identifier associated with said ingredient;

for each ingredient in the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;

for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of: for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the new organic letter.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c13] 13. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers,

the method comprising the steps of:

by the first entity, receiving from the first customer of the first entity a first ingredient list, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, and for each ingredient, either contact information for a respective supplier of the ingredient, or a unique identifier associated with the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the first ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;

for each ingredient of the first ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, assigning by the first entity a unique identifier associated with said ingredient;

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier;

by the first entity, receiving from the second customer of the first entity a second ingredient list, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients, and for each ingredient, either contact information for a respective supplier of the ingredient, or a unique identifier associated with the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the second ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;  
for each ingredient of the second ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;  
for each ingredient in the second ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, assigning by the first entity a unique identifier associated with said ingredient;  
for each ingredient in the second ingredient list for which no unique identifier was supplied, communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier.

[c14] 14. The method of claim 13 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

[c15] 15. The method of claim 13 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.

- [c16] 16. The method of claim 13 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 13 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.
- [c18] 18. The method of claim 13 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.
- [c19] 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 13 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;  
for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a 25 new organic letter.
- [c21] 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:  
for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the

new organic letter.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.

[c23] 23. The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c24] 24. The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c25] 25. A method for use in connection with a first entity and myriad ingredients, each ingredient supplied by a respective supplier, each ingredient having an associated organic letter having a respective expiration date, each ingredient having an associated unique identifier assigned by the first entity, the method comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will



expire or have expired;

for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.

[c26] 26. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

for at least one of the identified organic letters, receiving the new organic letter.

[c27] 27. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of:

communicating the new organic letter to a customer.

[c28] 28. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of:

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

communicating the new organic letter to a customer; and  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c30] 30. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers, the method comprising the steps of:

by the first entity, receiving from the first customer of the first entity a first ingredient to be added to a first ingredient list, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, the first ingredient requiring an organic certificate, and for the first ingredient, contact information for a respective supplier of the first ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier of the first ingredient and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the first ingredient;

for the first ingredient, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;

for the first ingredient, assigning by the first entity an associated unique identifier;

for the first ingredient communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier;

by the first entity, receiving from the second customer of the first entity a second ingredient to be added to a second ingredient list, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients, the second ingredient requiring an organic certificate, and for the second ingredient, contact information for a respective supplier of the second ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier of the second ingredient and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the second ingredient;

for the second ingredient, receiving by the first entity the

copy of the requested organic letter;  
for the second ingredient, assigning by the first entity an associated unique identifier; and  
for the second ingredient communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier.

[c31] 31. The method of claim 30 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

[c32] 32. The method of claim 30 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.

[c33] 33. The method of claim 30 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.

[c34] 34. The method of claim 30 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.

- [c35] 35. The method of claim 30 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.
- [c36] 36. The method of claim 30 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.
- [c37] 37. The method of claim 30 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;  
for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.
- [c38] 38. The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of:  
for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the new organic letter.
- [c39] 39. The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.
- [c40] 40. The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of:

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c41] 41. The method of claim 38 further comprising the steps of:

communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c42] 42. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers, the method comprising the steps of:

by the first entity, receiving from the first customer of the first entity a first ingredient to be added to a first ingredient list, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, the first ingredient requiring an organic certificate, and for the first ingredient, contact information for a respective supplier of the first ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier of the first ingredient and requesting a unique identifier associated with the first ingredient;

for the first ingredient, receiving by the first entity the unique identifier associated with the first ingredient;

for the first ingredient communicating the unique identifier

fier to the respective supplier;

by the first entity, receiving from the second customer of the first entity a second ingredient to be added to a second ingredient list, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients, the second ingredient requiring an organic certificate, and for the second ingredient, contact information for a respective supplier of the second ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier of the second ingredient and requesting a unique identifier associated with the second ingredient; and

for the second ingredient, receiving by the first entity the unique identifier associated with the second ingredient.

[c43] 43. The method of claim 42 comprising the additional step of:

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

[c44] 44. The method of claim 42 comprising the additional step of:

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.

- [c45] 45. The method of claim 42 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.
- [c46] 46. The method of claim 42 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.
- [c47] 47. The method of claim 42 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.
- [c48] 48. The method of claim 42 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.
- [c49] 49. The method of claim 42 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;  
for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.
- [c50] 50. The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of:  
for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the new organic letter.

[c51] 51. The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.

[c52] 52. The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c53] 53. The method of claim 49 further comprising the steps of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c54] 54. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers, the method comprising the steps of:  
by the first entity, receiving a first ingredient list relating to a first customer of the first entity, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, at least one of which requires an organic certificate, and for each ingredient requiring an organic certificate, contact information for a



respective supplier of the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;

for each ingredient of the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, assigning by the first entity an associated unique identifier;

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier;

by the first entity, receiving a second ingredient list relating to a second customer of the first entity, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients at least one of which requires an organic certificate, and for each ingredient requiring an organic certificate, contact information for a respective supplier of the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;

for each ingredient of the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, receiving by the first entity the

copy of the requested organic letter;  
for each ingredient in the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, assigning by the first entity an associated unique identifier;  
for each ingredient in the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier.

[c55] 55. The method of claim 54 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

[c56] 56. The method of claim 54 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.

[c57] 57. The method of claim 54 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.

- [c58] 58. The method of claim 54 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.
- [c59] 59. The method of claim 54 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.
- [c60] 60. The method of claim 54 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.
- [c61] 61. The method of claim 54 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;  
for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.
- [c62] 62. The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of:  
for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the new organic letter.
- [c63] 63. The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.
- [c64] 64. The method of claim 62 further comprising the step

of:

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c65] 65. The method of claim 62 further comprising the steps of:

communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c66] 66. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers, the method comprising the steps of:

by the first entity, receiving a first ingredient to be added to a first ingredient list relating to the first customer of the first entity, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, the first ingredient requiring an organic certificate, and for the first ingredient, contact information for a respective supplier of the first ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier of the first ingredient and requesting a

copy of an organic letter for the first ingredient;

for the first ingredient, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;

for the first ingredient, assigning by the first entity an

associated unique identifier;  
for the first ingredient communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier;  
by the first entity, receiving a second ingredient to be added to a second ingredient list relating to the second customer of the first entity, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients, the second ingredient requiring an organic certificate, and for the second ingredient, contact information for a respective supplier of the second ingredient;  
by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier of the second ingredient and requesting a copy of an organic letter for the second ingredient;  
for the second ingredient, receiving by the first entity the copy of the requested organic letter;  
for the second ingredient, assigning by the first entity an associated unique identifier; and  
for the second ingredient communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier.

- [c67] 67. The method of claim 66 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

- [c68] 68. The method of claim 66 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.
- [c69] 69. The method of claim 66 comprising the additional step of:  
for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.
- [c70] 70. The method of claim 66 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.
- [c71] 71. The method of claim 66 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.
- [c72] 72. The method of claim 66 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.
- [c73] 73. The method of claim 66 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:  
identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;  
for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier

associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.

[c74] 74. The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of:

for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the new organic letter.

[c75] 75. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of:

communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.

[c76] 76. The method of claim 74 further comprising the step of:

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c77] 77. The method of claim 74 further comprising the steps of:

communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and

communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c78] 78. A method for use in connection with a first entity, first and second customers of the first entity, and a multiplicity of suppliers of the customers, the method com-

prising the steps of:

by the first entity, receiving from the first customer of the first entity a first ingredient list, the first ingredient list comprising ingredients, at least one of which requires an organic certificate, and for each ingredient requiring an organic certificate, either contact information for a respective supplier of the ingredient or a unique identifier associated with the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate for which contact information is provided, and requesting a unique identifier associated with the ingredient or a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient;

for each ingredient of the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate for which contact information is provided, in the event that a copy of the requested organic letter is received by the first entity, assigning by the first entity a unique identifier associated with said ingredient, and communicating the unique identifier to the respective supplier;

by the first entity, receiving from the second customer of the first entity a second ingredient list, the second ingredient list comprising ingredients at least one of which requires an organic certificate, and for each ingredient requiring an organic certificate, contact information for a



respective supplier of the ingredient or a unique identifier associated with the ingredient;

by the first entity, contacting the respective supplier for each ingredient of the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate and requesting either a copy of an organic letter for the ingredient or a unique identifier for the ingredient;

for each ingredient of the second ingredient list requiring an organic certificate for which contact information is provided, in the event that a unique identifier is received by the first entity, storing, by the first entity, the unique identifier.

[c79] 79. The method of claim 78 comprising the additional step of:

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer.

[c80] 80. The method of claim 78 comprising the additional step of:

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to a certification agency.

[c81] 81. The method of claim 78 comprising the additional step of:

for each ingredient in the first ingredient list requiring an organic certificate, communicating the unique identifier back to the first customer and to an organic certification agency.

[c82] 82. The method of claim 78 wherein the contact information comprises an email address.

[c83] 83. The method of claim 78 wherein the contact information comprises a fax number.

[c84] 84. The method of claim 78 wherein the first entity is not an organic certification agency.

[c85] 85. The method of claim 78 in which each organic letter has an associated expiration date, the method further comprising the steps of:

identifying, by the first entity, organic letters that will expire or have expired;

for each identified organic letter, contacting the supplier associated therewith and asking for a new organic letter.

[c86] 86. The method of claim 85 further comprising the step of:

for at least one identified organic letter, receiving the new organic letter.

[c87] 87. The method of claim 86 further comprising the step

of:

communicating the new organic letter to the first customer.

[c88] 88. The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of:  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.

[c89] 89. The method of claim 86 further comprising the steps of:  
communicating the new organic letter to the first customer; and  
communicating the new organic letter to a certification agency.